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(54) Title: ENCODING AND DECODING A MEDIA SIGNAL
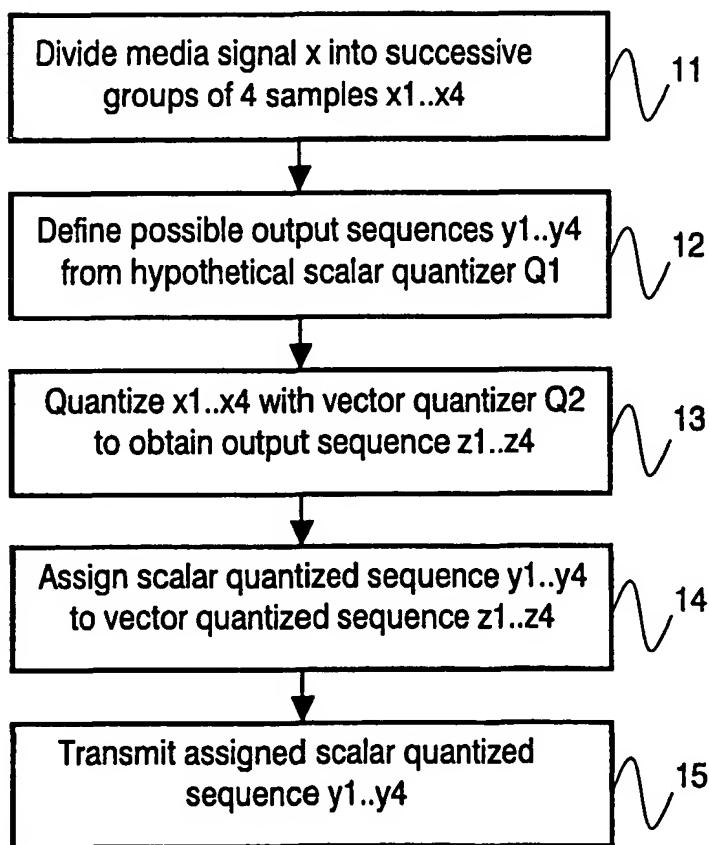
(57) Abstract: The invention discloses a method of embedding information for high quality restoration of a media signal (typically an audio-visual signal) in a lower quality version of the signal. To this end, the signal x is encoded using a high quality encoder (Q2). The code sequences z produced by the high quality encoder are mapped into code sequences y that are associated with a hypothetical lower quality encoder (Q1). The latter code sequences y are transmitted. A simple decoder will decode the received sequences y, and thus reproduce a low quality version of the signal. A more sophisticated decoder is arranged to inversely map the received code sequences y into the code sequences z, that were actually produced by the high quality encoder (Q2). The sophisticated decoder will thus reproduce a higher quality version of the same signal.

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